



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,277	11/30/2001	Ned T. Stetson	HS-109	6717
7590	04/07/2004		EXAMINER	
Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. 2956 Waterview Dr. Rochester Hills, MI 48309			MORILLO, JANELL COMBS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1742	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/998,277	Applicant(s) STETSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Janelle Combs-Morillo	Art Unit 1742	
	<i>--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
<p>THE REPLY FILED 22 March 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.</p>			
<u>PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]</u>			
<p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>b) <input type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p>			
<p>ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).</p>			
<p>Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>			
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.</p>			
<p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:</p>			
<p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);</p>			
<p>(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);</p>			
<p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or</p>			
<p>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.</p>			
<p>NOTE: <u>See Continuation Sheet.</u></p>			
<p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): <u>Obvious Double Patenting</u>.</p>			
<p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).</p>			
<p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The a)<input type="checkbox"/> affidavit, b)<input type="checkbox"/> exhibit, or c)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: <u>See Continuation Sheet.</u></p>			
<p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.</p>			
<p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will not be entered or b)<input type="checkbox"/> will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.</p>			
<p>The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:</p>			
<p>Claim(s) allowed: _____. </p>			
<p>Claim(s) objected to: _____. </p>			
<p>Claim(s) rejected: <u>1-16 and 18-31</u>. </p>			
<p>Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____. </p>			
<p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing correction filed on _____ is a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved or b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.</p>			
<p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____. </p>			
<p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. </p>			

Continuation of 2. NOTE: though the amended ranges of Ti, Zr, Mn, V, and A are supported by the instant specification (see Table 1, etc) the amended range of Cr, 0.42-1.1, is not supported by the instant specification, and is considered new matter.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: the prior art of record, as stated in the final rejection, teaches an overlapping alloy composition. Overlapping ranges have been held to be a prima facie case of obviousness, see MPEP § 2144.05. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the range, including the claimed range, from the broader range disclosed in the prior art, because the prior art finds that said composition in the entire disclosed range has a suitable utility.



GEORGE WYSZOMIERSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

